

NAPOLEON AND HIS MARSHALS

By J. T. HEADLEY.

Profusely illustrated by Reproductions of the Best French Pictures.

MARSHAL MORTIER.

HIS EARLY LIFE—HIS CHARACTER. ENJOYED NAPOLEON'S RESPECT AND AFFECTION—BATTLE OF DIRNSTEIN—FOUR ARMIES FIGHT IN A LONG COLUMN—EXPEDITION TO RUSSIA.

Edward Adolphe Casimir Joseph Mortier was born for a soldier, and though inferior as a commander to Soult, Ney, Massena, St. Cyr, and Suchet, he nevertheless played an important part in the great Napoleonic drama, and always exhibited the qualities of a good General.

He was born in Cambrai, in 1768, and his father, being a rich farmer, was able to give him a good education. Having adopted the republican side in the revolution, he obtained for his son, when 23

governed by higher principles of action. His selfishness was not constantly interfering with his duty, and he always appears calm and self-sustained amid the tumultuous events in which his life was passed.

Better educated than many of the other Generals, his mind and feelings were better disciplined, so that the warrior never triumphed over the man. His very chivalry sprang not so much from the excitement of the moment as from his high sense of honor, which was a part of his nature.

BATTLE OF DIRNSTEIN.

But in the campaign of Austerlitz, at the battle of Dirnstein, he appears in his most chivalric and determined character.

After the capitulation of Ulm, Napoleon continued his progress along the Danube, waiting the moment to strike a mortal blow at the enemy. The Austrians, hearing of the surrender of Mack, began to retreat towards Vienna, pressed by the victorious French.

Napoleon was moving down the right bank of the Danube, while Mortier, at the head of 20,000 men, was to keep nearly

parallel on the left shore. Murat, with the advanced guard, was pressing with his accustomed audacity towards Vienna. In the meantime, the Russian allies, finding they could not save the Capital, crossed over the Danube to the left shore to escape the pursuit of Napoleon and effect a junction with reinforcements that were coming up. Mortier was aware of this, and pressed eagerly forward to intercept their march towards Moravia.

As you pass from Dirnstein to Stein, the only road winds by the Danube, and between it and a range of rocky hills, forming a deep and narrow defile, Mortier was at the former place, hastening the march of his columns; and eager to advance, pushed forward with only the simple division of Cazan, and Knight of the Legion of Honor, for the army to follow close in the rear.

Passing through this defile, he approached Stein at daybreak, and found the rear-guard of the Russian army, sustained by powerful batteries, which swept the road along which he was marching.

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LETTERS OF CHAS. A. DANA.

Terse, Telling Reports to War Department from the Front.

Stages of Chattanooga—A Discouraging Period—Dana's Comments on Rosecrans' Management—How the Situation was Relieved.

(Continued from last week.)

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The siege of Chattanooga wore on, with the situation very dark for the Union forces. Dana finally succeeded in having a talk with Gen. Rosecrans, but did not extract much hope from it:

Oct. 16.—I have just had a full conversation with Gen. Rosecrans upon the situation. He says the possession of the river as far up as the head of Williams' Island, at least, is a sine qua non to the holding of Chattanooga, but that it is impossible for him to make any movement toward gaining such possession until Gen. Hooker's troops are concentrated and his transportation facilities improved.

Hooker's troops are now scattered along the line of the railroad, and cannot be got together before next Wednesday. The wagons must all have arrived by that time, and if the enemy does not interfere sooner to prevent them from reaching the mountain and Lookout Valley may then be attempted.

Rosecrans, however, expects that as soon as the weather will allow the enemy will cross the river in force on our left, and then it will be necessary for us to fight a battle, or else retreat from here and attempt to hold the line of the Cumberland Mountains.

Such movement against this army he thinks will be made only in the event that they accumulate here a force enormously superior to ours, so that we should fight, if at all, at a great disadvantage.

It is his opinion that they are collecting such a force, because, first, it is a military probability; secondly, we hear of their gathering men here from every place where troops can be scraped; thirdly, most of the deserters represent their numbers as being in excess of a hundred thousand.

Who came in this morning, said that two train loads arrived at Chickamauga Station yesterday, and they are coming all the time. But Gen. Rosecrans says he declines to the opinion that they will rather attempt to crush Burnside.

The same negro boy reports that he heard Jefferson Davis say in a speech at Chickamauga Station last Saturday that they would have East Tennessee if it took every soldier in the South.

When I suggested that his opinion was too weak to move the army with any promptness and efficiency, Rosecrans answered that the case was by no means so bad as I supposed. It was true, he said, that the mules were a great deal worn down, but both they and the artillery horses were capable of use. But even if the mules could not be used, he said, it was certain that even with Hooker he is too weak for any offensive movement.

It is his opinion that 100,000 to 125,000 men is the smallest army with which such a movement can be made upon Atlanta, with reasonable certainty of success.

FEARS OF REBEL PLANS. The army began to be thoroughly alarmed, lest the rebels should move around them, and get between them and Nashville.

Oct. 17, 10 a. m.—Skies clear; barometer indicates fair weather. Courier from Burnside reports rains much heavier in East Tennessee than here, and streams more swollen. Tennessee here still rising, but Sequatchie falling. Wagons will probably be able to get over the mountains by the 20th.

Col. Adams, commanding at Dallas (Harrison's Landing), reports some small indications of rebel purpose to cross in that vicinity.

Atlanta papers of 13th report that previous to Jeff. Davis's visit here he sent an aid, who reported that the rebels were planning to move around them, and get between them and Nashville.

The same day Dana returns to the old theme of Rosecrans' inability to command the army, and cope with the situation. He says:

11 a. m.—The general organization of this army is inefficient and its discipline defective. The former proceeds from the fact that Gen. Rosecrans insists on personally directing every department, and keeps everyone waiting and uncertain till he himself can directly supervise operations. The latter proceeds from his utter lack of firmness, his passion for universal applause, and his incapacity to hurt any man's feelings by his severity. It is certain that if it had been left to him, McCook and Crittenden might have lost other battles, and that from other fields without a word of censure.

As I have already reported, McCook got from him a whitewashing letter, and Crittenden might have got one had he not been too proud to ask for it. In the same way he gave Noyes a similar letter, although he has repeatedly declared that he ought to be shot, and although the official reports of Gen. Bannan, Gen. Wood, and Col. Harker leave no doubt of his guilt.

I learn, on the best evidence, that a few months ago Gen. Stanley defeated an important operation by being drunk at the critical moment, and that he has repeatedly been guilty of that offense while in the discharge of the most important duties in the field, yet Gen. Rosecrans has never taken any notice of the fact.

Another illustration is found in the case of Gen. Rouseau, a division commander. Gen. Rosecrans told me on Thursday that he was thinking of giving him the command of all Tennessee lately held by Granger, and requiring all his extraordinary talent, quickness, and energy.

There is thus practically no discipline for superior officers, and the evil, though less pernicious in the lower grades, is everywhere perceptible.

MORE DISCOURAGEMENT. The next day the dispiriting rains set in again, and the hopes of the army began to ebb. Dana telegraphs:

Oct. 18; 11 a. m.—Rain began about midday and still continues, but the barometer is rising and the wind has shifted, so that we hope for the final cessation of the storm.

Meanwhile, our condition and prospects grow worse and worse. The roads are in such a state that wagons are eight days making the journey from Stevenson to Chattanooga, and some which left on the 10th have not yet arrived. Though subsistence stores are so nearly exhausted here, the wagons are compelled to throw overboard portions of their precious cargo in order to get through at all.

The returning trains have now for some days been stopped on this side of the Sequatchie, and a civilian who reached here last night states that he saw fully 5000 teams halted between the mountain and the river, without forage for the animals and unable to move in any direction.

I rode through the camps here yesterday, and can testify that my previous reports re-

specting the starvation of the battery horses were not exaggerated. A few days more and most of them will be dead.

If the effort which Rosecrans intends to make to open the river should fail, the immediate retreat of this army will follow. It does not seem possible to hold out here another week without a new avenue of supplies. Gen. Smith says that as he passed among the men working on the fortifications yesterday several shouted "crackers" at him.

Amid all this, the practical incapacity of the General commanding is astonishing, and it often seems difficult to believe him of sound mind. His imbecility appears to be congenital, and it is difficult for anyone to get anything done.

The pontoon bridge broken three days ago is not yet replaced, though every part is ready to be laid. The telegraph is broken by our pioneers as fast as it is re-established, and the steamboat is rendered useless by the carelessness or wantonness of her crew, while the work on the fortifications is carried on so slowly that they might as well be abandoned; and if the army is finally obliged to retreat, the probability is that it will fall back like a rabbit, leaving its artillery, and protected only by the river behind it.

If, on the other hand, we regain control of the river and keep it, subsistence and forage can be got here, and we may escape with no worse misfortune than the loss of 12,000 animals.

RELIEF AT LAST. This was the last dispatch which Dana sent from Chattanooga. The Secretary of War himself started West to look into the situation, and summoned Gen. Grant to meet him for consultation. The result was the issuance of the President's General Order of Oct. 18, which created the Military Division of the Mississippi, with Gen. Grant in command of all the troops between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi, removed Gen. Rosecrans from the command of the Army of the Cumberland, and made Gen. Thomas his successor. Thenceforth intense activity reigned. Gen. Grant reached Chattanooga Oct. 23, and the next day began preparations for driving the rebels off the line of supply, and bringing up men and rations enough to secure undisputed possession of the country. Sherman was ordered up with all speed, and Hooker advanced.

Oct. 27 the rebels were driven off the Tennessee at the base of Lookout Mountain, and the river cleared for boats to bring supplies to Chattanooga. Nov. 15 Sherman's leading divisions reached Bridgeport. Nov. 23 the enemy's advanced lines were driven back from Orchard Knob, and Gen. Hooker drove the rebels off Lookout Mountain.

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AT CEDAR CREEK.

Reminiscences and Comments on Mooted Points.

"FACTS" ABOUT THE BATTLE.

Nineteenth Corps Man Thinks the Johnnies Could Not Have Stayed Under the Circumstances.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Facts about the Cedar Creek battle are that the Nineteenth and Eighth Corps were flanked and driven out of their camps, quoted as Wright in his report of the battle, and no force of the same strength could have stayed the impetuousness and onslaught of the victorious enemy. However, a more interesting in the various explanations given by comrades participating in the conflict. Many comrades, however, the Sixth Corps was most conspicuous, and took the brunt of the fight, and should have the laurels and be called Hero. On the other hand, the Eighth and Nineteenth Corps ably came in equally for a share of the honors.

It is admitted the attack was made on the left, confronting the Eighth Corps, which was facing partially southeast. The Nineteenth in the center, three-eighths of a mile or more to the west and a little to the rear of the Eighth. The Sixth Corps, the turnpike, facing southeast. The Sixth Corps position was on the elevation same distance west as the turnpike, and the Nineteenth, facing south down the river.

There was some firing by the outer pickets before light. As it was nothing unusual to hear some rattling shots, was not regarded of any importance, until they reported they heard muffled, rumbling tramp through the bushes at a distance before light, that an advance was being made, yet it seemed impossible that misty morning.

Gen. Crook, commanding the Eighth Corps, ordered a reconnaissance, and was preparing about noon to make an attempt to ascertain facts of the report, when there burst through the darkness of the morning, then came the yell from thousands of throats; then came the blare of the bugle, and on the rebels swept like a cyclone up the hill and into the camp of the Eighth Corps.

The Eighth Corps were drove back to the second hill to the camp of the Nineteenth, who were surprised to see the Eighth Corps coming in on their heels in retreat. They endeavored, as had the other corps, to make a stand, but on the Johnnies went. The Sixth Corps had more time to form into line, and it gave them an advantage; consequently, they were firmer and steadier, and under obligation to do just what they did, otherwise the situation would have been more disastrous. After